

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 11-12 are pending in the present application.

Reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

The claims are believed to be allowable for the reasons set forth herein. Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi (US 6,485,812) in view of JP 63101463.

Sekiguchi is cited as disclosing the composition of the layers and JP'463 is cited as teaching wet-on-wet coating. Neither of these references recite simultaneous wet-on-wet coating and Applicants respectfully submit that a reading of these references can not reasonably include such teachings even in hindsight.

The position taken by the Office is contrary to that set forth in the references cited.

Sekiguchi, at column 15 lines 30-31, teaches the coating and drying of a coating fluid. One can only conclude that Sekiguchi discloses either a wet-on-dry coating process or a non-simultaneous wet-on-wet coating process.

In an effort to pass this case to issuance Applicants provide herewith information pertaining to the different types of coating and drying. This is supported by the references filed herewith in the form of an Information Disclosure Statement.

There are three distinct methods of coating. In a wet-on-dry coating process the first layer is coated to form a wet layer and the wet layer is then dried. After the first layer is dried a second layer is coated onto the previously dried layer and the second layer is then dried.

In the non-simultaneous wet-on-wet coating process, the first layer is coated to form a layer but it is not dried completely. By definition there is some drying since volatile solvents are used. The period between the coatings is called a "flash-period" in the art and it is known from JP'463 that this flash period is critical to avoid disturbing the first layer.

The recitation has been submitted previously but not considered by the Office.

In a simultaneous wet-on-wet coating process the coating fluids for each layer are coated simultaneously onto a substrate and dried simultaneously.

The Office has repeatedly and incorrectly considered non-simultaneous wet-on-wet coating and simultaneous wet-on-wet coating to be the same. This position is incorrect.

In the rejection JP'463 is cited as teaching simultaneous wet-on-wet coating. This is not taught in JP'463. In fact, JP'463 clearly teaches against simultaneous wet-on-wet due to a the expected disturbance of the first layer. JP'463 even teaches against coating "immediately after" the previous coat. Therefore, one can only assume that there must be a time lapse between coatings and therefore there is no way this reference can be construed as teaching simultaneous coatings even if it is assumed that both layers are wet. Applicants are at a loss to understand how the teachings of JP'463 can be applied in a manner contrary to what is actually taught therein.

In summary, the Office combines a reference which teaches a composition similar to that recited in the claims. The

composition is specific to an ink jet media but lacks wet-on-wet coating and, specifically, lacks simultaneous wet-on-wet coating. The reference is combined with a reference teaching the coating of automobile paints which, even if it were considered to be analogous art, teaches that coating a second coat immediately after the first coat creates problems. The combination of these two references are then considered to teach simultaneous wet-on-wet coating in spite of the conflict of this position with teachings of the cited art. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is improper and withdrawal is anticipated.

Subsequent Rejections

Claims 4-6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi in view of JP 63101463 and further in view of Cousin et al. (US 4,554,181).

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi in view of JP 63101463 further in view of Cousin et al. as applied above, and further in view of Rabasco.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi in view of JP 63101463 in view of Cousin et al., and further in view of Malhotra et al.

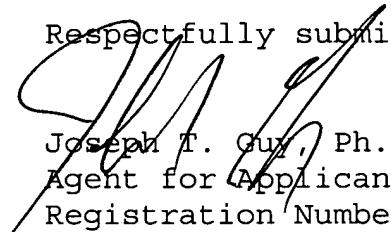
Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi in view of JP 63101463, further in view of Van den Zegel.

Each of these subsequent rejections have been argued previously and Applicant stands by the arguments of record. In each case the rejection is based, primarily, on the combination of Sekiguchi and JP'463 which is traversed herein. Applicants respectfully submit that the traversal is sufficient and reserve further comments for appeal if necessary.

CONCLUSIONS

Claims 1-9 and 11-12 are pending in the present application. All claims are in condition for allowance. Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph T. Gu, Ph.D.
Agent for Applicants
Registration Number 35,172 Customer
No.: 46591

February 4, 2005